

Forget Kuh, social climate is vital to college experience

The paramount campus buzz phrase is intellectual climate. All this talk and evaluation; futile infusions of motivation and responsibility: to what ends are these? Perhaps the "Kluh-less" force driving the introspection might ask itself, past its definitive evaluation, what it plans to do about anything.

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STUDENT COLUMNIST

nence and where they have the most time to be reflected, compared, and nurtured. In a cold, self-conscious arena of head butting, i.e. a new ideal "Kuhl-world?" I fear this would only widen the already preposterous gap between the social and intellectual.

Dear university, this is your responsibility as much as ours in light of change, but make a more pragmatic decision. We are seeds in your soil. Do not give up on

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these present classes with the hope that everything will be fine once these "in-betweeners" are out of your hair. It won't.

Even with their ThinkPads, incoming students will build their college experience out of a base human requirement: social interaction.

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significant changes in climate. Art will not come out of a vacuum.

Along these lines, intellectualism can be brought into a social identity. Hope lies in the elimination of this current polarity.

How? Bring it into the common scope through participation, for one. This is not saying President Thomas K. Hearn, Jr. should throw ragers in the Palaz of Hearn every night.

At both the University of Virginia and Harvard University, professors find it an honor to live on campus, in dorms with the students. It is a privilege to have such a suite. (This is a metaphor, Prof. _____, so don't rush over with your sleeping bag.) We aren't Harvard, you might say. Why not? I wouldn't be too ashamed to graduate from such an institution.

An editorial in this very paper a few weeks ago called for an end to faculty apathy. It is not so different. This is the same apathy that affects both sides of the lines: a feeling of isolation and or alienation from the other. Students vs. Faculty. Faculty vs. Students.

Where is the amelioration? How can we find the synergistic equilibrium between significant social and intellectual interaction in our daily lives here? Here's a "Kluh": the social climate.

Angels come in many forms

JOANNA IWATA
GUEST COLUMNIST

Last week as I rummaged through my holiday things — videos, CDs (listening to my favorite Kenny G holiday album), Christmas ornaments and lights — I was reminded of the "magic" this season creates for me. With the winter weather finally here, the hustle and bustle associated with last-minute shopping in the malls, images of Santa Claus, reindeers, snowflakes, and angels everywhere. 'Tis the season!

One of my favorite holiday videos is "It's a Wonderful Life" featuring Jimmy Stewart and Donna Reed. To me, this movie illustrates the triumph of the human spirit in the face of adversity when we have a little help from our friends or "angels."

Of course, the angel Clarence is my hero for it is by and through his influence and compassion where we can see how people's lives are transformed through their simple acts of love, hope and courage.

When we think about all the different people like Clarence who enter and exit our lives, some who magically appear when we need them the most, do we ever feel we have been "blessed" or "touched" by an angel? Isn't it also amazing to discover how these "angels" — whether

they are among our family, friends, or even a stranger — always seem to know what it is we are going through

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and how to help us through our difficulties? At the university, we could find ourselves among a litany of "angels" as they could be anyone in the form of a cherished faculty or staff member, a fellow classmate, a campus minister, or administrator.

Some of us may also experience being "touched by an angel" through our inspiration or prayer — some-

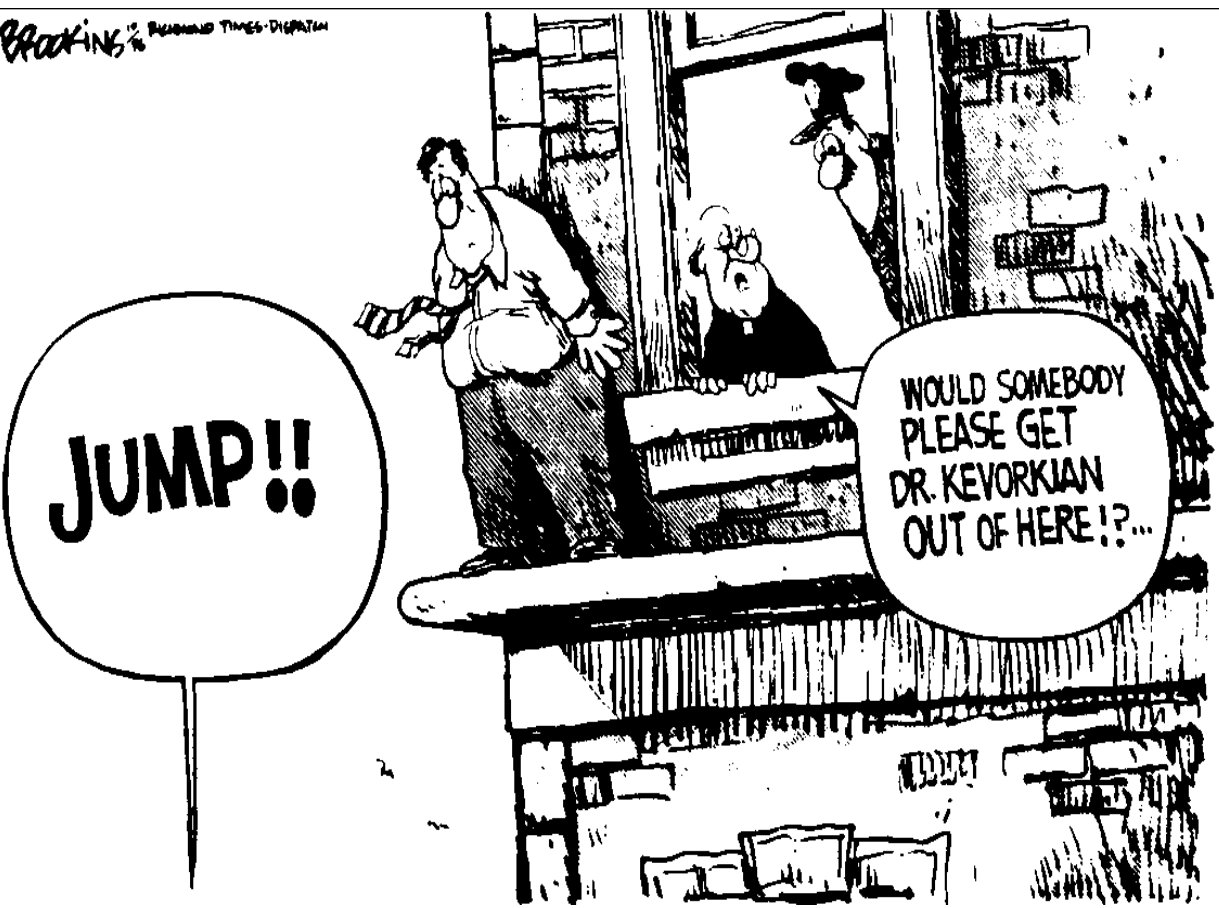
how we mysteriously seem to come upon the right words, actions or thoughts to move on which positively affects our lives and those of others. So how do we know when we meet an "angel" or are inspired by one?

■ An "angel" could perhaps be a friend who pops into your room just to say "hi" or a friend who seems to know just the right thing to say to brighten your day.

■ It could be a professor who invites you to meet with him to discuss your interests or concerns with him.

■ It could be a staff person who goes out of their way to help you or even an administrator who is available to meet with you.

As we enter into this holy and sacred season of the year, may we all be reminded of the value "angels" play in our life — and who knows, maybe we will also discover within ourselves, our own capacity to be an "angel" to our family and friends. Let us not discount our own ability to heal, to breathe new life, or to inspire those who also need us as much as we may need them. May the "angel" spirit be with you and among all of us. Happy holidays!
Joanna Iwata is director of the Benson University Center.



Don't worry... be happy

ZACH EVERSON
STUDENT COLUMNIST

After eating, sleeping, and going to the bathroom, one of the oldest attributes of man is his inquisitiveness. It was that trait that caused Adam and Eve to be expelled from the Garden of Eden, for man to reach the moon and many of the events that took place in between. Curiosity even killed the cat (although satisfaction did bring it back).

There is nothing wrong with taking time to analyze the wonders that surround us.

The problem, however, arises when one spends too much energy trying to find out why something operates, but does not take the time to enjoy it.

Recently, our self-appointed happiness czar Joanna Iwata, director of the Benson University Center, sponsored a panel discussion on what makes a person happy.

Unfortunately, I was too busy with work (something that definitely does not make me happy) to attend. For that matter, I would not have

attended even if I had no obligations.

The answer to happiness does not come through forums, panel discussions or bombastic editorials, just as the solution to one's problems cannot be resolved by just listing them. In fact, while a person is trying to delve into the reasons for their glee, they could be spending their time, well, just being happy. That is unless listening to an hour or so of psychobabble makes you content.

If one enjoys examining their motions through writing poetry, composing songs, or painting, that is fine. Obviously, the act of creating the art and searching for the reasons for their emotions is satisfying to them.

Most people, however, have no desire to find out what causes their blissfulness. For me, happiness can be as simple as a sunny afternoon at

Fenway Park with a group of friends watching the Red Sox toy with my heart, while stuffing my face with all sorts of over-priced and under-nutritious food and beverages. I do not know why this makes me happy, nor for that matter do I give a damn. It just does and that is just peachy keen with me.

For others, euphoria can be experienced through the poetry of Robert Frost, smoking marijuana, watching "Faces of Death," practicing Tai Chi or playing Sega for hours on end. Whatever works is just fine and dandy for them.

Instead of wasting our precious time examining the root of our happiness, we should spend it enjoying the flowers that blossom as a result of those roots.

Too much examination and not enough action is a common problem both at this university and throughout the rest of society. In the hackneyed and trite words of one of the great philosophers of our time, Nike, "Just do it."



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Project apologies

On behalf of Project Pumpkin Leadership '96, I would like to apologize for some of the inappropriate decorations that were seen the morning of Oct. 30. Some decorations may have been considered offensive to members of the university community and, when brought to the leadership's attention, were removed immediately. We apologize for any disruption this may have caused.

Cynthia Cox
Project Pumpkin Leadership '96

SG update

As co-chairmen of the Student Relations Committee, Lilly Bekele and I are working to promote a more open, unified environment at Wake Forest. We have been working on a number

of important initiatives this year, a few of which I would like to talk about.

I strongly believe that Wake needs social alternatives that any student is welcome to attend. Last year in an effort to promote this goal, our committee organized the first campus-wide party, which was a great success.

Our goal is for the campus-wide party to become a tradition at Wake Forest, with at least one per semester. The first campus-wide party this year will be held today, at Potat Lounge from 8:00 p.m. to midnight.

Lilly and I are also working with different campus groups to organize a celebration of the life and accomplishments of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Open Forums are an important way for students to get together with faculty and administrators about issues vital to student interests. An upcoming Open Forum will deal with the most controversial segments of the report.

We are trying to institutionalize the Open Forum concept. Next semester we will reserve space in Pugh auditorium every other Monday night for Open Forums, individual speakers, or just to make an SG committee available to student questions.

Our committee is also about to introduce legislation that will ask the administration to respond quickly and cooperatively to student concerns as expressed through the petition process.

Student Government can begin new programs to deal with student issues, but only students can make them work and thrive. Students must put aside cynicism and get involved to achieve meaningful change.

Russ Allen
Student Relations Committee
Co-Chairman

munications office a new graphical control center which allows speedier response and more accurate response to the scene of activated fire alarm devices. We are working steadily on adding buildings to this network as rapidly as possible. Obviously, there are old outdated systems still in existence on campus such as the one in Tribble Hall. Again, we are moving forward with plans to upgrade all fire alarm systems over a period of time. We also have a contractor working on an evaluation of all residence hall facilities aimed at preparing a cost proposal to install sprinkler systems in those buildings. And we have begun installation of new local alarm hardwired smoke detectors (audible/strobe) for the satellite housing and will complete that prior to the end of the year.

In summary, I believe this university is one of the leaders in the country in providing funding for upgrading of electrical, mechanical,

and fire safety equipment. We in Facilities Management always appreciate when the *Old Gold and Black* contacts us to get proper information for your articles regarding these items and will cooperate in any way we can to provide the information you need so that the campus community can be properly informed.

Bill Sides, Jr.
Director of Facilities Management

North vs. South

Quite frankly, I'm quite sick of all of the hoopla about the differences between the North and the South. It's the same argument everyday. The North is better. The South is better. The North is cold and fast-paced. The South is warm and laid back. Who really cares?

We all come from different backgrounds and have every right to be proud of our hometowns, but do we really need to revert back to the kindergarten game of who's better?

As a Northerner, I was not only surprised at the "South" article in last week's Perspectives, but I was appalled at the "North" article. I do not know what part of the North that Erin Korey lives in but it certainly is not the one I live in.

There is no instant change in attitude and pace when you cross the Mason-Dixon line. Actually, Pennsylvania is one of the most boring states to drive through, especially if you get stuck behind an Amish horse and buggy!

But all of the stereotypes broke down for me when I took a Southern friend home with me for fall break. As we pulled into a gas station in Pennsylvania, a dilapidated pick up truck with a Pennsylvania plate pulled in also. My Southern friend exclaimed in surprise, "So there are rednecks in the North!" And all I could say was "Yep."

Jen Schwegel